



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented before the Public Health Committee
February 28, 2014**

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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House Bill 5286: An Act Requiring Labeling of Electronic Cigarettes

The Department of Public Health provides the following information regarding House Bill 5286.

The Department of Public Health would like to encourage the accurate labeling of electronic nicotine delivery systems, since the products are currently unregulated and include both known and unknown ingredients.

A small sample study of electronic nicotine delivery devices found that products were only labeled with the correct level of nicotine in 10 out of 35 brands sampled; 7 had a higher level of nicotine, and 18 had a lower level than stated. Some cartridges labeled as containing no nicotine actually did contain nicotine levels, and three different cartridges with the same level had markedly different amounts of nicotine in each puff.¹ It is especially important to have accurate information since nicotine in certain dosages is fatal, particularly to children and pets.

The Food and Drug Administration found carcinogens and toxic chemicals within the cartridges tested, and exhaled smoke held propylene glycol, ultrafine particles, metals and carcinogenic substances.

Connecticut consumers need to know what they are inhaling so that they can make informed decisions that affect their health.

In addition, the Department of Public Health requests adding the following language in line 50 after the Commissioner of Consumer Protection: "[.] , including, but not limited to the issuance of product removal orders pursuant to Chapter 736 of the Connecticut General Statutes." This language will allow the Department of Consumer Protection's Commissioner the ability to remove product from the shelf. The Department also wants to inform the committee that the additional regulatory responsibilities described in this bill would likely result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Consumer Protection.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

¹ Food and Drug Administration, fda.gov, and Monique Williams, University of California, Riverside, 'Tobacco-Related Disease Reduction Program Electronic Cigarette Webinar', October 2013